



**Alaska Workforce Investment Board
Department of Labor & Workforce Development**

**DRAFT Executive Committee Minutes
November 18, 2003**

Roll Call

Dr. Alice Galvin (Chair), Colleen Ward (Vice Chair), Susan Denison, Kris Forrester, Mona McAleese, Colleen Ward, Dick Cattnach, Rose Ellis, Gene Kane, Rachael Petro, Deputy Commissioner Ed Fisher

Staff: Kitty Farnham, Patrice Parker, John Pratt, Patti Swenson

The meeting convened at 1:15 p.m.

Agenda

The agenda was approved with one amendment – to add the spring board meeting date to the discussion.

Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Access to the Future

Mona McAleese led the discussion on the Access to the Future Awards Program and the accompanying Resolution 04-02. The timeline and resolution were distributed prior to the meeting. There was some concern about the proposed budget, and how we can bring together the program with the Governor's Alaska Hire initiative. The Deputy Commissioner offered to take the idea to the Governor's ad hoc committee for Alaska Hire and see if they can coordinate efforts.

Construction Summit

Dick Cattnach gave the committee an update on the Construction Summit. It will take place on January 30, 2004 at the 4th Avenue Theater. The summit will examine workforce demand, current supply of trained workers and explore ways to address the gap between supply and demand. The Governor has been invited to attend, and they have to have him speak at the lunch. Strategies to address the gap could include the AWIB, the Denali Commission, K-12, Alaska Works, and a "helmets to hardhats" proposal. Mr. Cattnach said that Alaska Hire will certainly be part of the discussion but the main focus of the

Summit will be the worker shortage. The next meeting of the planning group is on Friday at 9 a.m. at the AGC building. He said they would welcome the board's participation.

Strategic Plan

The Committee discussed the strategic plan and PowerPoint presentation. They asked that committees work on their assignments and that committee chairs come back to the Executive Committee in January with the work completed. All committee chairs praised the work Ms. Farnham did on the plan and said it was clear and straightforward. The Deputy Commissioner questioned one slide, where the board suggested that the lack of a long-term plan was a threat to workforce development. He said the Governor does have a long-term plan. Ms. Ward suggested the committee tweaks the language and say that the threat is a lack of understanding of the Governor's long-term plan.

She thinks the committees should consider two points: what are the most important things worth doing and what will the AWIB do to demonstrate leadership. The board can set strong policies and direction. Agencies are already measuring many things the board has identified they want measured. The staff can do their best to align those measures with board strategies. There will be some overlap, as committees try to address their outcome assignments – the committees just need to be aware of it and try not to trip over each other. They should just identify who does what when and with what resources. Revisions to the plan need to be forwarded to Patrice by January 6. They'll then be compiled and sent out for the January Executive Committee meeting.

Who Speaks for the Region

The paper sets out the challenges associated with our current way of trying to provide leadership. It sets out the advantages and the options – which includes regional councils, which we're committed to as per our unified plan. She wants to gather feedback from the board as well as others for what approach we use. Does the Governor declare it, do we go out and find existing organizations and seek an invitation at their table. Do we do it all at once or do we phase it? That's the nature of the data gathering she's doing, with the expectation that by the January Executive Committee meeting she'll be able to provide a summary of the research that she's done. So she's very open to a discussion at this meeting as well as one-on-one time with board members. She'll call and set up appointments.

Chair Galvin said that at the Commonwealth North meeting she saw Senate Concurrent Resolution 12, which proposes 12 models for boroughs. Ms. Farnham said she reviewed that and her proposal calls for increased alignment, either to existing or newly created boroughs. The Southwest/Dillingham area, Anchorage/Mat-Su, Delta, and the North Star Borough all have active organizations and are anxious for linkages to workforce and economic development. Those four areas are ready to roll. It's a policy decision for the board. Do we tell Delta and Fairbanks that we want to work with them as one region or separately. Chair Galvin said it's all about jobs. She suggested creating one or two pilots and see how it works.

Ms. Ward said it's been a long time since local people have heard anything at all. We need to communicate with those people. She recommends we get back in touch with the LACs and let them know we're working on it, where we're at and where we're going. Ms. Farnham said the discussion paper makes recommendations. We have a strategy to resolve this. Instead of LACs as a stand-alone entity, we're looking for them to be aligned with an economic development entity. We're looking for local regions to marry up those organizations. It's happening in Fairbanks.

Susan Denison recommended getting good business voices on the Employment & Placement Committee. The Committee should go to Local Advisory Committees and identify those who are willing to participate on the committee. It would strengthen the private employer's involvement in the Job Centers. Ms. Farnham offered to draft something up and send it out to the board members.

Board Meeting Date

The Committee decided to move the spring board meeting up a week to avoid conflicts with the Easter holiday. It asked staff to contact the Board and see if Wednesday, March 31 would work for the majority of the Board.

Reports

Colleen Ward reported on the recent activities of the Vocational Technical Education Providers group. VTEP decided that in order to take advantage of funding opportunities they should think about forming a 501(c)(3) corporation. The organization could provide a funnel for vocational technical education money coming into Alaska. They're developing funding criteria in alignment with the Blueprint. They desire that the AWIB be aligned and in support of their direction. They're holding an all-day meeting on Friday, November 21, with work sessions this Wednesday and Thursday. Chair Galvin asked that staff put together a sheet listing the pros and cons of their proposal. Ms. Farnham said she'd be attending the Friday meeting because she wants more information on it. She'll also talk with Sen. Stevens office to determine what Sen. Stevens really wants before the board has to decide if it endorses the direction VTEP is going with this. Ms. Ward said she'd like to be part of that conversation.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.